

# THE AMERICAN

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## THE AMERICAN

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## REVIEW OF THE WEEK.

THE President is at Deer Park, and intends shortly to go on a three weeks' tour, the distant objective points of which will be Mr. Blaine's cottage at Bar Harbor, and the city of Indianapolis. Meanwhile the wheels of the great machine move with comparative quiet. There are, however, some notable operations. The Secretary of the Interior has appointed a commission to investigate the "re-rating" in the Pension Office, the inquiry to extend backward for a year or so, in order that it may include not only the work of Mr. Tanner, the new Commissioner, but some of that done by his predecessor, General Black. That such an investigation is greatly needed seems very plain, and it will be surprising if it does not distinctly exhibit Tanner as a very unfit person for the place he holds. His operations in the issue of pensions, their increase, re-rating, etc., appear to have been regardless of official propriety and public policy, and the commission, which has been directed to pursue its work "no matter whom it may hurt," will doubtless discover this state of facts. If it does, we shall have one more illustration of the injury done by political jobbery, when the price of it is paid out of the public account.

SEVERAL Republican newspapers are warning the Administration in a polite way not to trust too much to the distribution of offices as a means of strengthening the party. They remind General Harrison that his own State voted for Mr. Cleveland with every federal office in the hands of the Republicans, and then voted against him with the same offices in the possession of Democrats. This case is the more significant as Indiana is a State in which party lines continue to be drawn with the extremest emphasis and stringency, and the offices have been used with a "brutal" directness to secure party success. But party success they have not secured there or anywhere else. In Pennsylvania the Republicans are undoubtedly weaker to-day, with the "patronage" in their hands than they were a year ago when they had none of it.

THIS weakening has resulted from half a dozen causes, "Quayism" being the central and essential one. That evil system has involved scandals and quarrels, has put the people into the hands of the politicians, has weakened the tone of the party, and has helped to drag down the Administration, instead of giving it moral support. It has included among other things a controversy with Mr. McManes, one of the Republican "leaders" of this city, who resists the endeavor of Mr. Quay to use Mr. Harrison's power of appointment for his political destruction, and who is able, no doubt, though deprived of the Federal "patronage," to make a vigorous fight for the maintenance of his old position. Mr. Quay has been ostentatiously and ostensibly seeking to reconcile him, within a few days past, but the daily papers report the effort not a success. We should judge it probable that Mr. McManes understands very thoroughly Mr. Quay's plan of campaign, and estimates very justly the value of his protestations.

It appears that not much progress is being made in the remaining appointments. It is however current that one of the places, that of Surveyor of the Port, may be given Captain L. R. Walters of Chester county, who was a delegate to Chicago, and who, notwithstanding the demands of Mr. Quay's boss-ship there, voted first and last for General Harrison's nomination. Captain Walters may have consideration on this account, as well as for reasons of fitness, but it would be inconsistent with the policy which General Harrison has pursued in Pennsylvania. The presentation of Pennsylvania to Mr. Quay as a political satrapy, with Mr. Wanamaker to attest and execute the delivery, was a plan of

procedure which necessarily threw overboard the idea of thinking well of a delegate who had promoted General Harrison's nomination.

IT appears certain that New York and Washington are to "lock horns" for the honor and advantage of having the great "Three Americas" Exhibition of 1892, by which it is proposed to celebrate the discovery of Columbus. Nothing is really settled, as yet, in favor of either city, and circulars, clippings, arguments, etc., in behalf of each, begin to flood the mails. In behalf of Washington it is said that it is the national capital, a beautiful city of wide avenues and fine parks and grounds, with a great exhibition permanently organized in its National Museum, Smithsonian Institution, Patent Office, and various public buildings; that the scheme has been kept before the public attention for three years by the "Board of Promotion," organized from Washington, and that as the show is to take place in a Presidential year, it would be better to have it at the capital, which is a "disfranchised city," than in New York, where the political battle will probably be hotly waged.

The arguments in behalf of New York are, of course, that all roads lead to Rome, and that no other city can so well or so easily sustain a great exhibition, or entertain the vast numbers who will desire to visit it.

At this stage of the proceedings it seems fit for Philadelphia to preserve an uncommitted attitude. She has no reason to feel very kindly either toward New York, which stood aloof from the Centennial Exhibition of 1876 until its success was assured, or toward the national capital, which expects Congress to pay the expenses of the projected exhibition, in spite of the fact that the \$1,500,000 lent to Philadelphia was exacted of her again to the last cent. It is doubtless true that the Washington people have been at work at this enterprise for some time, and that New York had her turn in the celebration last fall. An exhibition of the kind proposed would be at Washington a government affair; at New York it would be a commercial enterprise, designed to benefit the business of the city. And what is there to assure us that there would not be another McAllister-Fish performance at the latter?

IT is to be hoped that even our Free Traders will cease soon to treat of Trusts as an outgrowth of the American Tariff, and to discover that "England is plastered over" with them, as Mr. Blaine said last year. The truth is that Trusts grow out of an economic condition, which has existed in both countries for more than a decade, and which has been found more oppressive to production in England even than in America. They are used as a remedy for the evils of excessive competition, and while the remedy is worse than the disease, that fact does not alter the history of their origin.

England not only produces an abundant crop of Trusts at home, but now is producing the article for export. In fact she finds in the Trust an instrument for restoring her lost domination in the world of industry. If she cannot crush our works by competition she proposes to fasten them to her own by the weight of her capital.

MRS. HARRISON has made a restatement of the objections to the present arrangements of the White House which has attracted public attention, and will serve, no doubt, to help very much a movement of reformation by Congress. So much of the present edifice has been taken into the public service through the growth of the duties laid upon the President or assumed by him, that his family hardly have room to turn round, and never are secure from intrusion in a building swarming with office-seekers and sight-

seers. For more than two decades past all kinds of contrivances have been adopted to overcome this disadvantage, and now it is felt that the time has come to find room for the family of the President quite outside the old apartments. Mrs. Harrison's plan is to erect an additional building for residence in the same style as the "White House," to the west, where the conservatory now stands, and then to use the present building mainly or entirely for the executive offices. It is not only "high time" some action was taken: further postponement would be a public disgrace. As Mrs. Harrison modestly and fitly says, it is not a mere question of convenience and comfort for the present Presidential family, but of those who come after. It is, in fact, a public, and not a private, matter.

BOURBONISM still reigns in the old Whig State of Georgia. The determination of the United States judges not to allow the torture of prisoners committed to the State penitentiary by national authority, has led to the proposal to exclude such prisoners from the State prisons. And yet the atrocities inflicted in this case had no more sanction from State than from United States law. It was not therefore any conflict of laws which provoked the resentment, but the assumption that the Nation has a right to protect its prisoners against the lawless barbarities of State officials.

Similarly the quarrel of the State with Atlanta University continues, and Mr. Gleun who proposed to send the professors to the Chain Gang for admitting their own children to the classes in which colored boys are taught, has introduced a bill into the legislature, which will set up a rival institution for the education of young men of color. To this colored normal school he proposes to give the \$8,000 a year which has been unjustly withheld from the Atlanta University. But the colored people very properly object to the endowment with this money of an institution which will be of lower grade than has been established for the white youth of the State, when the University of Atlanta stands ready to do as much for them as the University of Georgia does for the whites. They are taxed to support the State University at Athens and yet excluded from it. Northern generosity has furnished them with a substitute, and yet the State not only contributes nothing to its support, but withholds the \$8,000 entrusted to it for the higher education of the colored race. Should this continue, the trustees of Atlanta University will be obliged to surrender it to the American Missionary Association, a New England society, which will probably run it as a school, like Oberlin, for the co-education of both races, in disregard of the pre-historic Glenn.

THE trial of the "boodler" Alderman, McQuade, at Ballston, on a change of venue from New York City, has resulted in an acquittal, with which nobody is much surprised. District-Attorney Fellows, at whose door the failure is laid, accounts for it by the story that the witnesses of the State had been tampered with, and all the best lawyers of the local bar had been retained on the side of the accused. If Mr. Fellows had shown any heartiness or zeal at any stage of these prosecutions, some weight might have been given to these excuses. But the fact that he has satisfied nobody that he is really in earnest, and that his failures to convict have been so uniform, leads the public to discount his pleas very heavily. Nor is this disposition weakened by his announcement that it is altogether useless to proceed against the other bribe-takers unless better and stronger evidence can be obtained. Mr. Nichol procured the conviction of several of these criminals upon exactly that evidence, and if Mr. Cleveland and Mr. Hewitt had not prevented his election to the office of District Attorney, he would very probably have sent McQuade and McCleary to join them. The one excuse for Mr. Fellows is that a majority of the people of New York decided against the punishment of these men by electing him the public prosecutor.

MR. S. L. LOOMIS of Washington, who made a very close guess at the population actually ascertained by the Census of

1880, estimates that our population will be found to reach 67,000,000 next year, and 87,000,000 in 1900. Carrying forward his calculations through the decades of next century, he finds that by 1990 there will be a total of 915,079,642 people in this country, being one person to every 2.4 acres of land in the country, Alaska included. Yet even this would be slightly less than 270 to the square mile, which is the average for the British Islands, and far below that of Belgium and Switzerland. Such calculations, however, are entirely misleading. The natural increase of population in America is to double in 45 years. All the rest is by immigration, and when the country becomes more densely settled, the influx from abroad gradually will cease.

THE Constitutional Convention of North Dakota is discussing the proposal to have a legislature of but one branch. Another proposal is to devolve upon the judges of the Supreme Bench the duty of communicating to the legislature,—when required to do so,—its opinion as to the constitutionality, legal interpretation, and practical operation of measures proposed but not yet enacted. Similar provisions have been embodied in the Constitutions of other States, but very little use has been made of them. It generally has been found that the Supreme Bench is too busy with its proper duties to have time to answer such questions promptly; and to answer otherwise than promptly is to not answer at all. The general reluctance of judges to anticipate legal decisions in the ordinary shape was illustrated by the flat refusal of those of Massachusetts to give the General Court an opinion as to what would be the legal interpretation of the proposed School Law during last winter's session.

MUCH apprehension is felt by the members of the beneficial society called the Iron Hall with reference to its financial condition. It is made up chiefly of the working people of our city, who were attracted to it by large promises which have not been kept. We believe it is quite time to have associations of this kind placed under some kind of government inspection and regulation, not so much with a view to checking dishonesty in their administration, as to preserve a proper balance between their promises and their capabilities. They too often fall into the hands of over-sanguine people, whose calculations of possible profits are far above what it is safe to promise. We speak subject to correction when we say that the Iron Hall is not the only society whose accounts will bear overhauling. The society called the Tonti is represented to us as promising dividends to its members which are not warranted by its demands of them in the shape of dues. It is now quite a large organization, and many of its members are of a class which is supposed to understand financial problems; but they do not seem to do so.

It is nearly two decades since Mr. Gladstone had his attention called to the shaky financial condition of the Druids and other beneficial societies in England. He had a careful examination made of their accounts, and found that they all or nearly all were bankrupt in the sense of having undertaken to do what was impossible unless through a very great rise in the dues they collected of their members. He carried through Parliament a bill to regulate their action for the future in this respect, and to require of them such reports of their financial operations and their membership as would give security for their observance of the laws. The effect has been greatly to strengthen the societies by putting them on a thoroughly business-like footing, and by giving their membership the highest security for the performance of what they promised. Nor has it been found that they have grown less attractive through the withdrawal of the exaggerated offers of their unregulated period.

THE body of the English Liberals, without the support of Mr. Gladstone or Mr. Parnell, intend to make opposition to any provision out of the public funds for the daughter of the Prince of Wales on the occasion of her marriage. They have set on foot a

popular agitation against the measure and they propose to make the question a subject of earnest debate in the House of Commons, not with any expectation of defeating the grant, but in the hope of making capital against the Tories. We are not able to see the justice of the opposition. If the English people are to have a monarchy, they must bear the cost of a monarchy; and that involves such a provision for the scions of the royal house as will enable them to live as public opinion demands of them. Besides this, Parliament undertook to do this, when it converted the royal domain, which had been the personal estate of the English kings, into national property. It did so on the theory that it would be safer for the liberties of England that the sovereign should not enjoy a great income independently of the votes of Parliament and that the royal family would be none the worse off if they had to look to the representatives of the people for a suitable provision. The first supposition has been found true enough. But the second seems likely to become untrue through the decay of personal loyalty to the reigning family. But if Queen Victoria were to be re-endowed with the royal domain, she would be able to marry off her children and grand-children without asking anything from Parliament.

IN spite of the opposition of the "respectables," headed by the Lord Mayor, Edinburgh has given Mr. Parnell a right royal welcome on the occasion of conferring upon him "the freedom of the city." How great the advance in public opinion since the same city refused reelection to Macaulay because he had voted for the Maynooth Grant! That was an infinitesimal compensation to the Roman Catholics of Ireland for the great sums exacted of them for the support of an alien Church. It went to help them to educate their priests at home, instead of sending them abroad to appeal to the educational charity of the French, Spanish, and Italian churches. Yet Presbyterian Edinburgh would not hear of it, and turned her back upon a member of whom she was justly proud because he voted for it. Now the city of John Knox, besides helping to elect Mr. Gladstone to Parliament, welcomes as his friend and coadjutor the man who stands for equal rights for Ireland. And it is not in the Presbyterian masses, but in the Anglicanized "society" of the northern metropolis,—the Scottish Mugwumps, who are out of touch with the nation,—that the opposition to the general welcome shows itself. The people welcomed Parnell as they welcomed Knox, and just the same class stand aside and scowl in both cases.

#### REVIEW OF FINANCE AND TRADE.

##### NEW YORK.

A WELL known Chicago operator truly says that the reason why our railroad earnings have declined as compared with 1887 and years previous, is because the roads were then hauling large amounts of construction material for the building of new lines. They hauled a good deal such last year, and more the year before; but this is no longer the case. Railroad building this year has got down very low—less than half of what it was for the same time last year, and less than a third of what it was the year before, when the high-water mark was reached with 13,000 miles in the twelve months. The railroads are now depending on regular traffic for their earnings and they have been doing it for nine months past. This is an important fact, not so much in its immediate relation to the market as in the near future.

Everyone knows that active railroad building greatly stimulates all trade. To build 13,000 miles of road in a year, which would average at a low rate, including equipment, \$15,000 per mile, calls for the disbursement of \$195,000,000. This enormous sum spent in only one form of industry represents a powerful stimulus applied to all allied industries, as coal mining, iron making, steel rail making, lumber manufacture, etc. Consequently, those years in which railroad building has been proceeded with at a very high rate have always been years of exceptional business activity; but when the construction of new roads has reached its maximum for the period, as it did in 1872-3, in 1880-1, and 1886-7, there follows a period of decline and business activity slacks off more or less in all departments, while the prices of securities decline also, unless there be exceptional causes to retard them. The excessive railroad building of 1880-1 was done mainly

between the seaboard and Chicago,—or say between the seaboard and the Mississippi. In the period of decline following, it was the securities of all roads in that portion of the country which suffered most, as the new roads had made the struggle for existence most severe there. The Western roads suffered, so far as their stocks were concerned, only to the extent that they were influenced by a much broken-up market. In the past three or four years, the great building has been done west of the Mississippi, and this has brought about that condition of affairs which we usually designate comprehensively as the Western rate trouble. It is the granger stocks which have suffered. The trunk line securities have been remarkably steady at a comparatively high level throughout.

But the railroad building has been brought low. The St. Paul, for example, is now reporting earnings on practically the same mileage as last year, something it had not done for ten years before. Meantime the country goes on growing; the population increases, the amount of land brought under cultivation increases, and there is an increase in the productiveness of the land already in use. This means more products to transport, more freight and passengers for the roads, and in proportion as they increase, it becomes easier to maintain stability in railroad rates. It will not in itself solve the problem of joint management of these western roads. They are so interlaced that joint management in some form is a necessity, so that the great combinations, or trusts, so much discussed now, are sure to come in the end. But as business for the roads increases, with little increase in their fixed charges, the revenue applicable to dividends grows larger, and to this we may look for bringing higher prices for their stocks in the market. The operator above quoted says that in his opinion the worst is over with the western roads. They are, he says, on the up grade, and as the business of the country is growing rapidly it will in the course of time recompense the roads for the falling off in the earnings of railroad building material.

For these reasons he is a bull on the market, and though it may go down for a time, he thinks it will go down hard, and that the tendency in the long run will be in the direction of higher prices. These views fairly represent the general run of opinion among the Chicago operators, who are known to have been buying stocks lately, and to whose purchases such strength as the market has shown is mainly due. If the way Mr. Gould's stocks act be accepted as indicating his ideas, then he is not a bull. They are among the heaviest on the list, are always ready to sag when the market is weak, and drag when it is strong. It is supposed he is waiting for the outcome of the Atchison business. He has lately expressed himself in a bullish vein as respects the crop prospects and the freight which will come to the roads this fall, but his stocks do not go up, which is more significant than his words.

A notable transaction just announced, although consummated a couple of weeks ago, is the purchase by Drexel, Morgan & Co., from Mr. Huntington, of a block of 100,000 shares of Chesapeake and Ohio common stock. The price paid was 22½, a figure about one to two points above the then market price. It is understood that Mr. Huntington has another similar block which he is willing to sell, but has put a price on it somewhat higher than the other. The effect of the announcement was to make all three issues of C. & O. stocks,—first and second preferred, and common,—quite active in the market at rising prices. It was sensibly argued that if the buyers were willing to pay 22½ for the stock, they did not intend to sell at that rate. There is little reason to doubt that the purchase was made for the Vanderbilt interests, who desire to control the C. & O. system and work it in connection with their "Big Four" system.

The fact that these systems were to be worked together has been more than once spoken of in these columns, and the Chesapeake securities have always been spoken of as good things to buy and hold on to. They are very slow in their market movements, and buyers who are looking only for quick turns had better leave them alone; but those who are content to take something safe and slow, can make little mistake here. The other set of stocks, the Big Four, may also be recommended as safe purchases. Since the consolidation of the Big Four and C. C. C. & I., the new stocks, common and preferred, are known as the C. C. C. & St. Louis. The preferred pays 5 per cent. dividends, and is considered a safe investment on that basis. The common will probably pay 4 per cent. The first named should sell up between 105 and 110, according to the state of the general market and the demand for money.

The trust stocks have been comparatively quiet. Lead trust appears to have struck bottom between 23 and 25. Sugar stock, after its recent depression, has been creeping up again. The trust lends money on its stock, and as it called in its loans last week and broke down the price, it is inferred that the insiders were buying back the stock they had sold at higher prices.

The market generally is of the waiting character, for there is fear of tight money ahead as soon as the crops begin to move freely; but it seems to be a safe purchase whenever it drops off much.

## THE NECESSARY "REFORM."

THE necessity,—not merely from a party standpoint, but from that of patriotism and morality,—for a more elevated standard of political methods, with regard to appointments in the public service, is one that impresses itself upon every one who gives an hour's intelligent and fair consideration to the case. That the whole enormous and increasing body of federal places cannot be made the prize of party contests at each Presidential election, is a trite conclusion, and that some other plan must be followed than to make "a clean sweep" with each change of party is almost as fully conceded.

But yet, where is the public opinion to support the reform? Where are the public officers to carry it out in spirit and in truth? We see little sign of them. The party journals are influenced, if not controlled, by unhesitating politicians. They say little or nothing in behalf of the necessity for reform. They do little or nothing to explain the principles and methods by which reform has been begun. As a rule, their attention and their applause alike are bestowed upon the "boss" who triumphs, and the office-seeker who secures a place. They leave the inference to be drawn, if they do not expressly declare such a conclusion, that every system of law which stands in the way of freely using the public places for party advantage is an invasion of popular rights, and a device to impair political fair play.

This description applies to Pennsylvania,—as it doubtless does in an equal or greater degree to other States. We have observed a score of journals complaining of the—to them—odious and absurd law which prevents the new Collector of the Port of Philadelphia, Mr. Cooper, from "making places" for "good Republicans" by removing wholesale the clerks and other subordinate officers whom he finds in the custom-house. Mr. Cooper himself explains in the journal which he edits that the necessity of passing an examination stands in the way of his appointing whomever he might choose, and he says that the application of this rule to "inspectors and chiefs of rooms" works badly, "for in positions where common sense is of more use than culture, the men possessing it can rarely be had, while those who have just graduated from schools stand the best chance." He signifies, thus, his resentment of the system which the Pendleton-Eaton law has established, and which the Civil Service Commission is appointed to enforce. And his words we find quoted and enlarged upon in Republican journals, one of them now before us insisting that for "the majority of positions" the qualities needed "cannot be discovered by an examination," and that the ideal civil service was that "made by the politicians, if you please," before the Pendleton law was passed.

The lack of accuracy in such statements as these is itself astonishing. Mr. Cooper's representation that those "just graduated from schools" have the best chance is an entire misstatement, as the tabular reports presented by the Civil Service Commission conclusively show. Taking the custom-house examinations, those who passed and became "eligible" for appointment, last year, were not boys, or even young men: they were mature men. They were not just from school: they were 30 years of age. The average age of "eligibles" for examiners, as found by the examinations, was 30.5 years; for weighers and assistant weighers, 33.2 years; for clerks, store-keepers, etc., 28.4 years; for samplers, 30.5; for night inspectors, 31.9; for day inspectors, 31.2; for openers and packers, 32.5. This is conclusive, we think, on that point. But, besides, the questions are not such as tax anybody's "culture." They do not demand the extensive education which a "graduate" alone is supposed to possess. For clerks in the custom-house, for example, the tests included penmanship, spelling, copying, letter-writing, arithmetic, the elements of book-keeping, and of accounts; and elements of geography, history, and government of the United States. Will any one pretend that these subjects are not appropriate, or that a person ignorant of them ought to be a public officer,—even to oblige the politicians? And when it is considered that knowledge of these seven

subjects is taken relatively,—that acquaintance with arithmetic makes 5 points out of 20, while the elements of geography, etc., make but one,—it will be seen that the examinations are neither unpractical nor unduly difficult.

In all gravity it should be said to those interested in Republican success that they are being gravely misled concerning Civil Service Reform. Truckling to the Spoils idea is as fatuous an error as it was to truckle to Slavery, to Wild Finance, or to Monomism. It is impossible for the Nation to tolerate the shame and injury of a political system which would contend every four years for the prize of all the offices. Emancipation from that yoke is no less necessary than was the freedom which Lincoln's proclamation ordained and the Thirteenth Amendment made secure. And every political leader who purposely delays this, who weakens the public purpose, or confuses the public understanding with regard to it, is unfaithful precisely as were those men of the North who took the pay of the Slave Power forty years ago.

THE NARRATIVE AND CRITICAL HISTORY OF AMERICA.<sup>1</sup>

THE issue, this year, of Volume I. of Mr. Winsor's great work on American history completes the intended series of eight volumes, with the single exception of the closing one, and the collection of the seven now out shows impressively upon how broad a plan, with what admirable ability, and with what infinite pains of detail, it has all been done. There is, of course, nothing equal to it in this country, and nothing comparable with it: furthermore, it is unlikely there ever will be, until the progress of time has made a new era like that which lies behind us, and again it becomes desirable to collect, arrange, collate, edit, and illustrate the authentic documents of history, for the use of scholars and the perusal of intelligent students.

The plan of the work, as has been said, extends to eight volumes. They are royal octavo in size, printed and bound in the best manner. Illustrations abound: hundreds of portraits, maps, plans, diagrams, views of places, fac-simile reproductions, autographs, etc., drawn from historical sources,—not derived from the imagination of artists,—are placed in every volume. A large part of them are rare, and could be consulted only on the shelves of private collectors or of the libraries which have made a specialty of Americana. The text of the work is supplied by many contributors, and these include a large part of the best known names in American historical writing. Each man writes on the theme to which he has given particular attention, and in which he is an authority. Thus, Mr. Stone, the Librarian of our Pennsylvania Historical Society, a diligent student of all that relates to this State, fully informed as to the original sources of information concerning it, and maintaining a just and catholic view in his judgments as to the relation and significance of events and the character of men, contributes to Volume III. the narrative account of "The Founding of Pennsylvania," and to Volume VI. the description of "The Struggle for the Delaware," 1776-78. To another of the most competent of our local authorities, Professor Gregory B. Keen, now Librarian of the University of Pennsylvania, is committed the account of the Swedish settlements on the Delaware, a subject with which he has an intimate acquaintance.

It would be taxing time and space to enumerate all the contributors of special chapters such as Mr. Stone and Prof. Keen, and to give the subjects they treat of. It may be mentioned, however, that the list includes Rev. Edward Everett Hale, Dr. George E. Ellis, Mr. John Gilmary Shea, Hon. John Jay, Mr. Clements R. Markham, Mr. Sidney Howard Gay, Rev. Edward D. Neill, Dr. B. F. De Costa, Hon. George Ticknor Curtis, Prof. Alexander Johnston, President James B. Angell, Prof. Edward Channing, Mr. John Austin Stevens, Mr. William Wirt Henry, and others of like ability and historical experience. Mr. Winsor himself has accompanied them in every step. Besides contributing many of the narrative chapters, and supplying some of the "Critical Essays on the Sources of Information," he has added everywhere notes which aid to explain the text, or which point out the authorities which may be further consulted. The whole work must be a monument to the ability and industry of Mr. Winsor.

We have already mentioned the recent date of the issue of Volume I. The second volume of the seven was published in 1886, and the others at various dates intervening. The first volume was detained in order that advantage might be taken of the results of the further research in relation to that "America" which

<sup>1</sup>NARRATIVE AND CRITICAL HISTORY OF AMERICA. Edited by Justin Winsor, Librarian of Harvard University. [Seven Volumes Issued.] Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co.

had an existence during indefinite ages before the European visitors of the historic period made it known to us. Concerning this "Aboriginal America" the stores of our knowledge are scanty by comparison, but in a work like this they demand exhaustive and intelligent treatment. Volume I., therefore, contains an introductory chapter on "Americana in Libraries and Bibliographies,"—a suggestive series of notes pointing out where the books and documents relating to American history are to be found. This is followed by other chapters developing the details which were preserved and handed down to us by the first explorers and visitors, and those other meagre, but yet intensely interesting data, which have been patiently collected by observers in the departments of archaeology, geology, and paleontology,—the evidences left us of the course of nature and the works and habits of man in the prehistoric time. Mr. Winsor himself deals with the voyages before Columbus,—the "Pre-Columbian Explorations." To enter upon these is, he says, treading upon ground scarcely more firm than that of the myths of still earlier times, which are supposed to suggest the connection of America and the Old World. "It is still," he says, "a doubt how far we exchange myths for assured records when we enter upon the problems of pre-Columbian explorations." He deals with the alleged Norse, Welsh, and other discoveries. As to the Norsemen, he says that the sagas are too indefinite and confusing,—as is well illustrated by the varying conclusions which scholars have drawn from them,—to be relied upon as anything more than indications of what was doubtless the truth,—that the Viking navigators, first reaching Iceland and then Greenland, also visited the American coast. "We may consider, then, that the weight of probability is in favor of a Northman descent upon the coast of the American mainland at some point, or at several, somewhere to the south of Greenland; but the evidence is hardly that which attaches to well-established historical records." A notable circumstance is the absence of archaeological traces; they are abundant in Greenland, but on our coast there is none of undisputed verity. As for the other alleged voyages and voyagers from Europe to America, before Columbus, Mr. Winsor dismisses them briefly. Concerning Madoc, the Welshman, he says the proofs are "not sufficient to attract the confidence of those who look for historical tests, though, as Humboldt contends, there may be no improbability in the story."

Volume I. contains, also, chapters on "The Geographical Knowledge of the Ancients, Considered in Relation to the Discovery of America;" on "Mexico and Central America," by Mr. Winsor; on "The Inca Civilization in Peru," by Mr. Clements R. Markham; on "The Red Indian of North America, in Contact with the French and English," by Dr. Ellis; on "The Prehistoric Archaeology of North America," by Henry W. Haynes; and on "The Progress of Opinion Respecting the Origin and Antiquity of Man in America," by Mr. Winsor. Any one at all familiar with even an outline of these subjects will understand how much alike of scholarship and labor is needed in order to digest and arrange the authorities from which information is to be drawn. The single theme of the controversy as to the character of the civilization and political system in Mexico and Central America, at the time of the Spanish discovery,—wherein the late Mr. L. H. Morgan represented one view, and Mr. Hubert H. Bancroft the other,—is itself a matter demanding much care and patience, as well as a judicious temper and fair judgment. Mr. Haynes's chapter on the prehistoric archaeology of North America, is likewise an excellent piece of work, though it strikes the purely historical reader as presenting but little to afford a basis for historical conclusions. It is notable how much in it is referred to the discoveries by Dr. C. C. Abbott, and to the observations and conclusions of the late Henry Carvill Lewis. Dr. Abbott's finding of the stone implements and weapons in the Trenton gravels, affording a presumption of the existence of man in this region before the glacial epoch, or between two glacial periods, constituted an important, almost decisive, event in archaeological study.

The several volumes following the first cover the following fields: II.: The Spanish Discoveries and Conquests. III.: The English Discoveries and Settlements. IV.: The French Discoveries and Settlements, with Chapters on the Dutch and Swedes. V.: The French and English Possession, 1689-1763—being the period from the English Revolution to the Peace of Paris, after the Seven Years' War. VI.: The American Revolution, 1763-1783. VII.: The United States, 1783-1850. The remaining volume will deal with the history of Canada, and with the other nations of North and South America outside of the United States, tracing their history in the last and present centuries.

It is beyond the purpose of this article to attempt any critical suggestion on any point. This must be reserved, if it should seem to be called for, to another time. But very largely criticism is precluded by the methods of the work. Each specialist is strong upon his own ground, and with the accompanying comments and notes of the editor, the opposition that might be offered is antici-

pated and disarmed. Above all it is the extensive—immense,—array of bibliographic notes and references throughout the work which give it so great a value. These are the product of many laborers in the historic field: Mr. Winsor has had the advice and coöperation of scores of the best scholars and writers, and all seem to have worked well to the common result. These stores of reference are themselves enough to entitle the work to enduring fame and perpetual use.

H. M. J.

#### JOHN BURROUGHS' BOOKS.

IT has been said that the world owes the greater part of the writings of John Burroughs to chance. That the young essayist, already a philosopher and an Emersonian, lying on the grass under a tree, saw an unfamiliar bird wing its way across the sky; and that, following its flight with eager eyes till it disappeared in the distance, he then and there determined to become the literary naturalist he now modestly styles himself. However this may have been, whether it is to chance or to deliberate design that this particular bent of his genius must be attributed, no author has proved himself better fitted for a self-imposed task than he. His writings seem to have caught and held the very spirit of wild nature. There is, upon certain portions of them, an almost appreciable bloom, which is akin to that of the grape, but which has the added virtue of imperishability. And then what "wine of happy thought" lurks at the heart of this intellectual fruitage! You may go again and again and taste of it, and if it loses in flavor, you may depend upon it that the fault lies in the palate, and not in the vintage.

In the preface to "Wake-Robin" its author explains his purpose as follows: "I have reaped my harvest more in the woods than in the study; what I offer, in fact, is a careful and conscientious record of actual observations and experiences, and is true as it stands written, every word of it. . . . In other words I have tried to present a live bird,—a bird in the woods or the fields,—with the atmosphere and associations of the place, and not merely a stuffed and labeled specimen." That he has succeeded in doing this is evident to everyone who has read "The Return of the Birds" or "In the Hemlocks," and has then gone out into the springtime fields and woods and taken note of the birds which periodically visit them. The "bluebird with the earth tinge on his breast and the sky tinge on his back;" the robin, as "at sunset, on the tops of the tall maples, with look heavenward, and in a spirit of utter abandonment, he carols his simple strain;" the Baltimore oriole, whose nest, compared with that of the robin, is a Roman villa contrasted with a half-subterranean hut; all have been presented to him in a way which excites his interest, while many other less familiar visitors of the spring,—the nuthatch or the cuckoo, or the hedge-sparrow, perhaps,—will be identified by him for the first time.

It is interesting to note how often a successful writer is indebted to his first book for the groundwork of many of his later productions. No doubt the early volume on Whitman was condensed and altered to make the essay entitled "The Flight of the Eagle" in "Birds and Poets;" and those who have read "The Snow-Walkers" in "Winter Sunshine," will be reminded of it by the following paragraph from "In the Hemlocks": "I walk along the old road, and note the tracks in the thin layer of mud. When do these creatures travel here? I have never yet chanced to meet one. Here a partridge has set its foot; there, a woodcock; here, a squirrel or mink; there, a skunk; there, a fox. What a clear, nervous track Reynard makes! how easy to distinguish it from that of a little dog,—it is so sharply cut and defined!" And yet it is remarkable how seldom this author unnecessarily repeats himself. If he takes up a subject a second time, it is because he has found something of importance to say about it which was left unsaid at first, and not from any scarcity of subject-matter. His repetitions arise from a desire to be thorough, rather than diffuse; for Burroughs has been too careful a student of Emerson to over-elaborate a subject.

"Birch Browsings," also in "Wake-Robin," is a delightful narrative of a camping-out expedition, and the notes by the way are among the best of the author's written observations. Note how, after hours of toilsome and fruitless search for an elusive lake in the forest, his weariness is at once charmed away by a bird song or two: "As if to reassure us, a robin sounded his cheery call near by, and the winter-wren, the first I had heard in these woods, set his music-box going, which fairly ran over with fine, gushing, lyrical sounds. There can be no doubt but that this bird is one of our finest songsters. If it would only thrive and sing well when caged, like the canary, how far it would surpass that bird! It has all the vivacity and versatility of the canary, without any of its shrillness. Its song is indeed a little cascade of melody."

"Winter Sunshine," in which is found the exquisite essay on "The Apple," was his next book, and was published in 1875. It also contains several sketches of travel in England and France, in which the author's habits of accurate observation have enabled him to give an unconventional atmosphere to many well-worn localities and objects of interest. The following characteristic bit is from "Autumn Tides," in this book: "Does not the human frame yield to and sympathize with the seasons? Are there not more births in the spring and more deaths in the fall? In the spring one vegetates; his thoughts turn to sap; another kind of activity seizes him; he makes new wood which does not harden till past midsummer. For my part, I find all literary work irksome from April to August; my sympathies run in other channels; the grass grows where meditation walked. As fall approaches, the currents mount to the head again. But my thoughts do not ripen well till after there has been a frost. The burrs will not open much before that. A man's thinking, I take it, is a kind of combustion, as is the ripening of fruits and leaves, and he wants plenty of oxygen in the air."

In "Birds and Poets," which followed in 1877, Mr. Burroughs takes up the critic's pen from time to time, and, by his articles on Emerson, Whitman, and others, enlarges his circle of readers. Probably no writer understands Emerson better than Burroughs. He accepts the message of the Concord sage in a spirit of reverential admiration, yet with a full understanding of its limitations and defects. His enthusiasm is always tempered by common-sense; his praise is always discriminating. In the first paragraph of his Emerson essay he strikes the keynote of his master's philosophy. "There is," he writes, "greater refinement and sublimation of thought, greater clearness and sharpness of outline, greater audacity of statement, but, on the other hand, there is a loss of bulk, of unction, of adipose tissue, and shall we say of power? . . . Emerson is an essence, a condensation; . . . he gives us net results. . . . Considering him as a Poet alone, I have no doubt of his irremediable deficiency here. You cannot have broad, massive effect, deep lights and shade, or a torrent of power, with such extreme refinement and condensation." Notwithstanding the fact that in this essay more attention seems to have been given to Emerson's shortcomings than to his excellences, the reader is never permitted to lose sight of the fact that its author holds the subject of his discourse in the highest reverence. There is no flippancy, no disrespect, no attempts at "smartness;" for that matter, one must go outside of the writings of John Burroughs if in search of any of the ordinary cheap methods of attracting attention. Sane, dispassionate, kindly; they are like the works of the old authors; sweetening and refreshing the mind and heart, and luring the reader out into the fragrant solitudes of field and wood, so that his body may in like manner be refreshed and invigorated.

I must reluctantly pass over "Locusts and Wild Honey," 1879, and "Pepacton," 1881, both of which are filled with chapters of pure delight for men who have not forgotten their boyhood, and also over "Fresh Fields," 1884, and "Signs and Seasons," 1886; the former of which is the record of a second trip to England, and a most charming book. This brings us to Mr. Burroughs' latest volume, "Indoor Studies,"<sup>1</sup> whose contents, with the exception of the vigorous essay on Victor Hugo, entitled A Malformed Giant, are republished from *The Century*, *Macmillan's*, *The Cosmopolitan*, *Lippincott's*, *The Critic*, and *The Epoch*, after having been revised and in a great measure rewritten. It is doubtful if a more sympathetic and altogether satisfactory analysis of Thoreau's character could be made than is set forth in the opening essay in this volume. The same common-sense estimate has been formed of this strange bundle of affectations and whimsicalities as had long before been made of Emerson, and with the same gratifying result. In "Science and Literature," and "Science and the Poets," Mr. Burroughs again proves himself the possessor of critical faculties of the highest order; and no young writer can afford to leave these essays unread. The same may be said of those on "Matthew Arnold's Criticism," and on his "View of Emerson and Carlyle;" both of which are real additions to the literature of Literature. The paper on "Gilbert White's Book" is a trifle disappointing. Probably the recollection of Mr. Lowell's brilliant essay on the same subject acted as a check upon its author. In "A Malformed Giant," Mr. Burroughs makes a fine plea for the preservation of the probabilities in fiction; boldly attacking the crudity and false art of much of Hugo's work. The delightful "Egotistical Chapter" at the close, lets in many interesting side-lights on the character of its author, who has accomplished the somewhat difficult feat of writing an autobiographical sketch with modesty and candor.

Taking it as a whole, while this last of Mr. Burroughs' books is perhaps a little uneven in quality, the bulk of its contents is of

a very high order; certain portions being equal, if not superior, to anything in his earlier volumes.

It is to be hoped that the report is without foundation that Mr. Burroughs will hereafter write less than has been his wont. There is no danger of his wearying his readers.

CHARLES HENRY LUDERS.

#### LECTURES ON PROTECTION.

RUMORS having the appearance of authenticity are in circulation that a fund is in process of collection in Pittsburgh and its vicinity for the purpose of maintaining lectures in educational institutions in defense of the American Protective system. To many it is a source of surprise that this sort of work has not been undertaken before, especially as the Cobden-Manchester school has never lacked pecuniary support for its propaganda. Not only are Free Traders liberal contributors to the dissemination of their insular and self-aggrandizing heresies, but they have captured in America the foundations established in many of our strongest universities and colleges, and from conspicuous professorial chairs spread their views, coated with contempt for their opponents, among the young scholars of the nation. This capture is legitimate enough, and undoubtedly has come about naturally from the conditions of the times and without corrupt or covert methods. But however it has happened, the great majority of the liberally educated men and youth of the country is saturated with the English doctrines of political economy.

One of the most eminent Protectionist educators now living, when recently asked why a periodical devoted to the "American system," as Clay called it, could not be pushed into larger circulation, replied that the great bulk of readers of solid matter were free traders, and that, so far as his observation went, the protectionist party as a body was not a reading public. The statement was rather sweeping, but if it be limited to book reading, and newspapers thrown out of the calculation, the proposition is not far from the truth. This is the normal result of subjecting our colleges to the domination of Cobdenism.

The testimony of the late Henry C. Carey was very much to the same effect. About a year before he died he told the writer that while he believed his labor had been actuated by a disinterested desire for the public good, he was sorry to say he had never any financial or moral assistance from the manufacturing world. His books were brought out at his own risk, and from those whose interests he most directly befriended he received neither thanks nor support. It seems to have required the assault of Mr. Cleveland's administration upon the established policy of the country to bring about a different state of things. Only within very recent years has the manufacturing interest of the United States, which embraces one-fourth of the laboring classes of the country, creating an output twice as valuable as that of 7,000,000 agriculturists, aroused itself to organization and liberality for the propagation of Protectionist principles. The turning point seems to be reached at last, and Free-Traders are no longer the only economists who backed up their views with their purses.

One can hardly overestimate the advantages of those who control the economic education of the country. Those who are systematic about the business are creating a generation of voters whose heads are not turned by the excitement of a political canvass. Such products of the lyceum and the school do not waver as the ballot battle draws nigh. They are not confused by the discordance of party cries in the tumult of a campaign, nor bewildered by the statistics collated or invented to bolster up a foregone premiss. These are the men about whom the hesitating rally, and whose clearness of judgment and accuracy of information give their voices persuasiveness and authority in legislative and party contests. If Protectionists are contented to trust to the oratory of campaign speakers and the arguments of the press in the midst of an exciting election epoch, they will eventually find themselves beaten by those who in the quiet of the class-room and in the tranquility of election intervals have not only been forming convictions of their own, but disseminating them in the years when argument seems disinterested. It is a well-known fact that the Free Traders aroused themselves after their late defeat to undertake a large measure of educational work, and they must be met and beaten in the arena they have chosen. Importance is added to this proposition by the fact that leisure from campaign oratory affords the best occasion for forming sound opinions. In the heat of conflicts men steel themselves against new opinions; arguments are discredited as uncandid; facts are suspected as inventions of the enemy. The only way to make stable, intelligent friends of the American system is to educate the youth either in the lyceum or the school.

There is no difficulty in fairly overthrowing the Free Trade theorist. The facts are against him all the time. He is a theorist, while if there be a study which is thoroughly one of experience it

<sup>1</sup> Indoor Studies, by John Burroughs. Boston and New York: Houghton, Mifflin & Co. The Riverside Press, Cambridge. 1889. 1 Volume. \$1.25.

is industrial Economy. Neither the banker nor the merchant acts upon abstract logic, but upon observation and statistical information. So must the manufacturer and the legislator. But the strength of the Protectionist position should not lead men to trust interests of such magnitude to the defense from assault. Entrenchments should be thrown up before the battle, and even before the enemy is in sight. In other words, a propaganda of American ideas should be promptly set up, and continuously maintained as an established part of our public education.

What are the facilities for such dissemination of sound economic doctrines? There are few colleges and universities which still remain in the possession of Protectionist teachers. These could be enrolled in one class, patronized, and commended to public confidence. But better yet, upon them could be engrafted what are called "extension lectures," by the English Universities of Oxford and Cambridge. The men and the material are ready at hand. Let the professors go out into accessible towns and deliver systematic courses of lectures akin to those which they use in the class-rooms. On such occasions they could suggest to their audiences the literature necessary to private study, and the sequence in which it should be taken up in order that the studiously inclined might become proficient in economical questions. Many colleges would be glad thus to put themselves in practical contact with the life about them. They would gain prestige and popularity by it. There would be some cost attending it, but it would be an exceedingly economical way of securing large results. The money required would have to be contributed for this special purpose, for scarcely a college in the land has means as its control to divert to outside work. Then few of them would undertake a propaganda like this, until they were invited thereto by some representative organization like a manufacturers' club. There is a professional instinct of decorum which forbids a teacher to obtrude himself upon the world lying outside of his appointed duties, especially to take sides in questions of partisan debate. But that consideration would give way before a summons from a representative body of citizens to justify their convictions and opinions before the public.

D. O. KELLOGG.

#### THE SPAGNUM SWAMP.

**I**T lies back from the roadway, in a ravine to the eastward from Sandy Bank, the latter a relic of a once continuous formation, long ago largely gone seaward with the rush of waters from melted glaciers. I had gone forth in search of some old stronghold of the quiet creatures with which the obliterating instinct of man is forever at war—some lingering fastness of nature into which the accursed pick and hoe and mowing-machine had not carried death and destruction. I found the Sphagnum Swamp. Here were still to be found creatures that might raise in thoughtful mind a doubt whether God did not, after all, have some other object in the making of the world than the facilitating of Smith's crop-raising, or the preparing of timber for neighbor Jones's saw-mill. What is the market value of the fringed carex? In what bourse of all the world is quoted the price of the cinnamon fern? Yet these were there; yea, verily, and seemed well nourished, as if they were really of some account in the economy of things!

The swamp I visited on that afternoon in June is of the sort to be found now and again among our hills. Eastward lies the stream called Crum Creek, and into that sweet brook runs the water which here wells up from the ground nearly on the divide between Crum and Ridley. The subterranean moisture oozes out at three or four different places, making a little wilderness of wetness, a great sponge, a home for sphagnum and carexes and their companions. The dry slopes which surround this soppy place are favorite haunts of the huckleberries and briars. At the foot of the slopes, alders and hazels and andromedas, they that love to dip their feet in water, flank the edges of the swamp, and make the half shade so gratifying to the osmundas, the blazing star, the solomon's seal.

With what unerring precision does each species find out for itself the exact spot which suits it! Here near the trickling overflow from a spring that lay clasped by the roots of a great maple, I found the three-toothed orchid. It is safe to say that in this vicinity this is the one and only place suitable for it. No consumptive is half so sensitive about his habitat, his atmosphere, the sum total and several particulars of his environment, as is this little orchid. A beam too much of sunlight, a drop too little of moisture, and it dies the death. But here it was at home, and doubtless had been, in all its generations, for a thousand years. How small one feels in the presence of such ancient landholders! One's chatter is shamed into silence before their quiet dignity.

Hard by the orchid I saw a little bunch of dried grass. A tug at this brought forth a raging bumble bee. This lone founder of a colony had here excavated for itself a hole in the bank the

size of a croquet ball, into which it had packed grass enough to fill a pint cup. Now I wished to examine the nest, but feared the bee; but she, being only one, and on that account at a disadvantage, instead of launching herself at my head, after the manner of bees, lay on her back and went pivoting round with a buzzing noise (intending to be very terrifying), evidently in an attitude of defense. So out came the grass, which seemed to have been put in with some sort of method, like a bird's twigs in the nest. The longer strands were on the outside, and in the centre of the ball was a lot of chopped grass or inner bark, making a soft little nest. The cavity was quite regularly globular, and the walls were nearly smooth. I noticed, when I pulled the door-bell, that the bee came out over the top of the ball of grass.

It was amusing to see the next move of the bee. Half crazy with rage, she hurried into the cavity and examined the walls of her dwelling, feeling them here and there with feet and tongue. Finding them intact, she issued forth and clambered into the heap of grass, which promptly parted and threw her on her back. This added fuel to her fire of anger. However, after a deal of buzzing and complaining, she mounted her hay cock again, and seizing a wisp, bore it quickly into the hole, returning immediately for a second. When one's house is thrown out the window, one's only resource is to carry it back. And so we leave her. A week later the damage I had done was already half repaired.

Ah, the beauty of the great osmunda ferns! Here they were in that vigorous green that told of a well-nourished root. Vast fronds four feet in length, growing in a circle, making a dark green vase with outlines unsurpassed for beauty by any costly ceramics. In one species the spores are borne on a spike rising from the centre of this vase, in color a lively cinnamon, which adds much to the beauty of the plant.

Near the upper edge of the swamp is a mimic cypress forest, a colony of the *Equisetum sylvaticum* of the botanists. Could one suddenly become as small as one's little finger, a walk through this grove of horse-tails would give him a fairly accurate idea of a landscape of the age of coal; for these are the degenerate descendants of the giants of old whose graves are the mines of anthracite among our Pennsylvania mountains. Here also grows the wild strawberry, now ripening into that rich color foreign to its cousins of the gardens. Some bunches were short in the stem, and the berries of these lay cushioned in moist, soft sphagnum. Others were lifted up, and there they hung like a spray of jewels. As I stood admiring these gems of the swamp, I heard a rustling of the thin grass, and soon perceived a box-tortoise laboriously approaching. He passed by several bunches of berries with short stems, and paused in the attitude of invocation before a high-stemmed cluster. Praying thus for some five minutes, he then put forth a flipper and somehow drew the stem toward him. At this interesting stage I was compelled to assume a more durable position, and in doing so I attracted his attention. He simply stopped with his foot *in statu quo*, apparently petrified with astonishment. I now underwent another long wait, but to no purpose. Not a muscle of the creature moved, save only the muscles of his eye. This member rolled a little occasionally, but was mostly kept focussed on me. Seeing that the banquet would not take place so long as I remained, I politely withdrew. Though I had not seen the tortoise eating, I knew henceforth that this berry garden was his delight.

The blue shadows from the hills had grown long, and the crest of the ridge toward Media was rimmed with yellow light. I was compelled to leave the rich spot I had but half explored, and to reserve for another day a more close acquaintance with the little yellow primrose, the spiranthes, the wee swamp blackberry, the wild phlox, and others, each worthy of attention.

As I came over the hill, ten thousand white daisies surrounded me on every side, and every daisy was inclined—some more, some less—toward the descending sun, looking a farewell to their fountain of life. In the morning they will greet him with faces to the east. Bright sun-worshippers, you and I have something in common! In this manner, once upon a time, did my forefathers incline themselves before the day star in his risings and his settings.

Media, Pa.

T. CHALKLEY PALMER.

#### WEEKLY NOTES.

**A**S discussions concerning pronunciation play so large a part in American conversation, and as a person who has the hardihood to pronounce English as his mother taught him is in constant danger of being smothered by a combined Webster and Worcester army, (not to speak of the Imperial, Dr. Murray, and the Century), we have a peculiar satisfaction in calling attention to a correction of both "Standards" by Professor Fisk Brewer. Regularly with the approach of each spring a controversy breaks out concerning the *arbutus*, whose pronunciation is even more a mystery than its hiding place is apt to be. The mystery is solved by

the statement that there are two distinct plants, the *ar-butus*, and *arbu-tus*. The former is the name of a shrub which grows ten or twelve feet high, has evergreen foliage, and bears scarlet berries. It is also called the *ar-bute* or strawberry tree, and is known to botanists as the *Arbutus unedo*. It is cultivated as a garden ornament in England, and has been almost naturalized in Ireland. Its primitive home is the north shores of the Mediterranean, and it is occasionally referred to by the Latin poets.

The American or trailing *arbutus* is a different plant; it is known to the botanists as the *Epigaea repens*, and is found only in America. It is also known as the Mayflower of some parts of the country.

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THE course recently established in the University of Pennsylvania, in which natural history studies occupy the place of honor, has created some discussion because of the three sets of requirements for admission one makes no demand for either ancient or foreign languages. Instead of Greek and Latin, French and German, proficiency in certain specified sciences is to be accepted; but those students who have not studied Latin are required to pursue that study for at least two years of the course. The degree to be conferred is Bachelor of Science, and the sciences of biology are to be given as high a place as the technological sciences occupy in the Towne Scientific School. With these are combined literary studies in a liberal measure.

The especial object in view in planning this third set of requirements is to throw open the University to young men who have completed their courses of study in the public schools of the State, but have no predilection for technological studies, and have had no facilities for acquiring the knowledge of Greek and Latin required for the course in Arts. Under this new arrangement and after some extra work in science, they can enter the University as candidates for a regular degree, and may either pursue the four years' course in the pure sciences, under such teachers as Leidy and Rothrock, or elect the Wharton School course in Finance and Political Economy at the end of their second year.

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IT is with profound regret that we learn of the untimely death of M. Arthur Amiaud of Paris. Only a few weeks ago we referred to his contribution to the new series of the Records of the Past and to the excellent work he was doing in deciphering the difficult and important Telle inscriptions. M. Amiaud was the rising French Assyriologist. His work was marked by modesty, and scholarly acumen, and his loss leaves a blank in the Assyriological world which no scholar at present could fill.

C. A.

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ACCORDING to the *Babylonian and Oriental Record*, the sculptured remains recently found at Zinjirli, contain bilingual Hittite and cuneiform inscriptions. This, it will be remembered, was strenuously denied some time since.

C. A.

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IN accounting for our wet weather, some people point at once to the presence—or absence—of spots on the sun. But what then shall we say of the experience of Western Europe, where the same sun has given the farmer a dry and promising summer, just the reverse of our own?

#### THE "SPOILS" IN PENNSYLVANIA.

[The following is forwarded us by a gentleman of Philadelphia who has been taking his vacation in the mountains of Pennsylvania.—EDIT OF THE AMERICAN.]

A N active Republican who took the stump last year in both Pennsylvania and New York, expressed himself to me, with entire freedom. "I am bitterly disappointed," he said, "with Mr. Harrison's Administration. I was disappointed in the Cabinet, which is a characterless affair, with the exception of one or two members. But worst of all is the dispensation of 'patronage.' Of what use is it to tell us that Mr. Harrison has done as well as did Mr. Cleveland? No doubt he has, or even a little better. But we did not move heaven and earth to get Mr. Cleveland out, that we might get a slightly better administration in place of his. From a Republican we expected one a good deal better. That was what we fought for. I have ranked always as a 'Stalwart,' but I do feel my zeal for the success of the party cooling as never before, since the Administration showed its hand."

"Worst of all are the appointments to the post-offices. This rule of giving the selection of post-masters to Congressmen is working very badly throughout our State. At my summer home in — county, we are in the district of Mr. Buckalew, a Democrat, so the senators have the 'patronage' and they delegate the selection for the smaller offices to the local Republican 'workers.' At our own place there was a petition from 87 Republicans for the appointment of a man we could trust and respect. The other

candidate had nobody's support but his own and that of a Republican 'worker.' Nobody else wanted him in the office,—but he got it. At another place a large manufacturing firm protested against the selection which was threatened, both because of the man's character, and because he would remove the office to an inconvenient place. The firm offered to furnish post-office accommodations free of cost, if a proper person were appointed. But the man to whom they objected had the approval of the local Republican officials, and he 'got there.' It is cases like this all over the State, which advertise Republicans that they have got back to the Spoils System under President Harrison, and it is making them very restive."

#### CASTLES IN THE AIR.

**H**OW swiftly they dissolve to nothingness  
Beneath reality's all searching beams,  
As mist-wreaths melt beneath the morning sun!  
Two tireless architects,—the heart and brain,—  
Erect these frail dream-castles one by one  
To view in sadness when their work is o'er,  
The fall of turrets that seemed close to Heaven.

WILLIAM H. HAYNE.

#### REVIEWS.

**M**ANUAL OF ORIENTAL ANTIQUITIES. Including the Architecture, Sculpture, and Industrial Arts of Chaldæa, Assyria, Persia, Syria, Judea, Phoenicia, and Carthage. By Ernest Babalon. Translated and enlarged by B. T. A. Everts, M. A. London: H. Grevel & Co. 1889.

THIS work is the first attempt intelligently made to cover the entire field of Oriental art. Of necessity, some subjects are treated in a very summary manner; indeed, the author claims to have written no more than a modest abridgment of the monumental works of Perrot and Chipiez. Yet from one point of view this absence of detail is an advantage, for it brings out in prominent relief a fact frequently overlooked, that the ancient Oriental world had but two arts, that which came from Egypt, and that from Assyria, or more properly from Babylon. Strictly speaking there is no Persian art, or Hittite art, or Jewish art, or Phoenician or Carthaginian art. The present volume, leaving Egypt aside (which was covered by M. Maspero's book, in the same series), endeavors to trace the Chaldaean-Assyrian stream, an art which has no cause to be ashamed by the side of Egyptian art, and which furnished models, imperfect it is true, yet whose influence on Greek art was greater than we shall ever know.

Under Chaldaean art, architecture and sculpture are largely treated from the material now in the Louvre Museum, furnished by the excavations of M. E. de Sarzec at Tello, in 1877-1881. A fundamental character of the architecture, and one which did much toward shaping its development, was the exclusive use of bricks for building purposes. The marshy character of the soil required that buildings be placed on artificial terraces removed from the unwholesome damp. The earliest buildings found, indicate that in the time of Gudea, about 4000 B. C., the construction of the vault was well understood. The interior decorations of the palaces must have consisted entirely of coloring and draperies, since no remains of decoration have been found. Another curious development, owing to the necessities of the occasion, was a complete system of drainage. The statuettes and bas-reliefs discovered in Chaldaea take us to the beginnings of sculpture. The development in this branch of art was so rapid that the statues of the age of Gudea show the apogee of Chaldaean sculpture. The hardest stones are used with vigor and success; the details of the form which are permitted to escape the all enveloping drapery, are depicted with surprising truth. The hands and feet are studied even to the knuckles, the nails, and the wrinkles of the skin. The heads are rendered with much force and clearness. Later Assyrian art can show no countenance of such originality as marks this early period. Metals were used with as much facility as stone. The pottery never reached a high development, the apparent neglect of ceramics was due however to the bad quality of Mesopotamia clay. Seal engraving was carried on with much activity and splendid results, and our author truly remarks: "I do not know which should astonish us most, the degree of perfection to which the Chaldaeans had carried the plastic arts or the prodigiously distant epoch to which such monuments transport us."

Assyria, lying nearer to the mountains and therefore using stone, (though never exclusively), has left us much better architectural remains than the southern kingdom. The use of the vault was developed and reached a perfection never attained either by the Egyptians or the Romans at any point in their history. Timber also played an important part in some of the build-

ings of Assyria; her monarchs relate that they transported it from the Amanus and the Lebanon. Yet the use of wood was always exceptional and was never introduced except as an exotic element of which the monarchs boast, on account of its rarity.

Assyrian statuary can by no means compare with its predecessor. It is a distinct retrograde from Chaldaean sculpture, which reached its highest point before the Ninevite supremacy. It was only in bas-relief that Assyria was destined to excel,—almost indeed to reach the ideal of Greek art. It is here that we find the prototypes of the Loves, the Centaurs, the Chimeras, the Sphinxes, the Gryphons, the Pegasi, and the Hippocampi, to which Hellenic genius gave such beautiful expression. The industry exhibited in this work was simply prodigious. It has been calculated that the series of bas-reliefs from the halls of Sargon's palace at Khorsabech alone, placed end to end, would form a line a mile and a half long.

The nude human figure, with the exception of statuettes of the goddess Istar, (Venus), was never represented. All the skill of the artist was directed towards a careful reproduction of draperies. But the opposite was the case in the reproduction of animal forms, and accordingly, Ninevite sculpture shows itself to far greater advantage in the representation of the animals of different kinds found in Mesopotamia. In this province it may claim a considerable superiority over Egyptian art, and reaches, just before the fall of Nineveh, a degree of perfection which may sustain comparison with the finest creations of Hellenic art.

No other people of antiquity carried their taste for elegant furniture as far, and in this department we find objects as delicately sculptured in wood and ivory as the most precious bronze utensils.

The most ancient monuments of Persia date from no earlier period than the reign of Cyrus, (B. C. 559-529) and they plainly show traces of Ionic influence.

The Hittite art of Syria is derived from Assyrian art. It has nothing original either in the conception of its forms or its technical execution. Jewish art drew its inspiration from Assyria and Egypt. Its highest effort was the temple at Jerusalem and its furniture. This building was one of the grandest architectural works that the genius of the ancients produced. The successive enclosures raised one above the other and crowned by the gigantic pylons of the sanctuary, built of white marble, were the result of an inspiration of genius that has never been realized except in this instance, and all antiquity has but one voice, to proclaim its imposing majesty.

The chief use of the Phoenicians was in spreading the art of the Assyrian civilization. Of their own they had nothing original. It was the Assyrian filtered through Phenicia and joined to Greece which produced Cyprote art. The Cyprote artist is a Greek who has served his apprenticeship among the Orientals. The Phoenicians though not the inventors of glass, as stated by Pliny, had for a long time the monopoly of its manufacture, and some of their work in it shows much beauty.

The book-making of this work is excellent; type, binding, and illustration are good and tasteful, the translation clear and idiomatic. There are occasional historical slips, which have in most cases been corrected by the translator, and one will inquire for instance, by what right the *bit kutalli* of the Assyrian inscription is identified with the treasury; but altogether the work is of a high class, and Oriental students as well as students of the history of civilization and of art will be grateful to M. Babelon for his excellent treatise.

CYRUS ADLER.

CHTCHEDRINE: LES MESSIEURS GOLOVLEFF. Roman traduit du Russe, par Marina Polonsky et G. Debasse. Deuxième Edition. Pp. xii. and 407. Paris: Albert Savine, Editeur. 1889.

This volume is one of a series of Romans étrangers modernes, which includes translations from Spanish, German, English, and Russian. The original is of interest as being from the pen of a writer who probably ranks next after the four great Russian novelists whose works have been rendered into English. He reminds us more distinctly of Dostoeffsky than of either of the other three; but he is distinctly different in that he is a satirical writer especially, and psychological analysis is a means to that. He has studied the life of his country broadly, but always from the satirist's standpout, laying his finger in turn on each of the radical evils of society, and watching every shift of intellectual and social fashion in the critical spirit. Few writers are so important for a knowledge of the whole social environment, although, like every other satirist, he fixes his attention so excessively—not exclusively—on the darker side of existence as to create what on the whole must be a false impression. Few satirists have the fortune of Juvenal in finding a state of society of which hardly enough could be said in its praise. If Russia were nothing better than Chtchedrine represents it, it must go to pieces at once.

The romance before us seems to have been suggested by the *Oresteia* of Greek tragedy. It is the picture of a family of the small nobility tottering to its fall. The picture is made the more effective by the contrast which is furnished by a woman of practical capacity and great force of will, who marries into it. Through the first half of the book Arina Petrovna dominates, with very little wisdom but very much of the prudence which bears fruit in the accumulation of property. It is not want of material resources which furnishes the rock on which the Golovleff family is wrecked. It is the heartlessness which is born of the vices suggested by their social isolation and their relation to their serfs. Greed, self-indulgence, impotent day-dreaming, vodka, and suicide are the milestones on their road to ruin.

The most remarkable portrait is that of Porfiry Vladomiritch, the last of the line, who deposes his mother and takes the reins into his own hands. From his early career as a Moscow official he has acquired a passion for reports, calculations, and all the red-tape of the bureaus. With this he combines the character of an accomplished hypocrite of the Russian type. He is not, as our author reminds us, a Tartuffe. To be that would imply a society of his equals, before whom to practice the social and conventional hypocrisies; and for him no such society exists. It is largely toward his own conscience that he practices his hypocrisies, and he manages to combine the most cruel selfishness, ardent greed, sensuality, and other vices with a profound and ceaseless devotion to the "Ikons" which adorn his rooms. Above all he is a proser of the first water, holding forth the most intolerable commonplace with an air of wisdom and profundity. Every one wears of his talk, even his mother, and at last even his mistress, who wakes up to womanly discontent after the birth and removal of her child.

The portrait is masterly, and no doubt true to the possibilities and the actualities of Russian country life. But it is thoroughly painful, though less so than that of the picture of Porfiry's two nieces, who go to moral ruin in the career of provincial actresses. A more terrible picture of a society nominally Christian, but really savage and animal *au fond*, could not be drawn. It brightens only at the close, where the Good Friday services recall the uncle and the surviving niece to their real condition, and each goes to death with the cry for forgiveness. Sad as the ending is, it is positively a moral relief from the painful tenor of the whole previous story.

THE FIRST THREE BOOKS OF HOMER'S ILIAD. With Introduction, Commentary, and Vocabulary for the Use of Schools. By Thomas D. Seymour, Hillhouse Professor of Greek in Yale College. Pp. xlii., 66, 138, 105. Boston: Ginn & Company. PLATO: PROTAGORAS. College Series of Greek Authors. By James A. Towle, Principal of Robbins School. Pp. 179. Boston: Ginn & Company.

The increasing abundance of good and cheap books for school instruction is a matter constantly noticed, and one that certainly should be cause for congratulation among educators. In the department of Greek classics, especially, this increase of number and improvement in value of text-books has taken place to an extent which tends to make the position of Greek in higher school courses more assured and permanent.

The College Series of Greek Authors, which Professors White of Harvard, and Seymour of Yale, are bringing out, is doing an excellent work in making obtainable American editions of the classics which are thorough in their scholarship and attentive to contemporary research. While the editors must draw much of their material from the English and German universities, there is still considerable room for labor in the adaptation of foreign commentaries to the special use of our schools and colleges. The individual editors of the College Series, we notice, are all instructors in American colleges and high schools.

The excellent introduction to Professor Seymour's "School Iliad" is adapted for younger pupils from his "Introduction to the Language and Verse of Homer," and the commentary is simplified from the author's "Homer's Iliad, Books I., III."—both in the College Series. The vocabulary has also been published separately, and was noticed in THE AMERICAN a few weeks ago.

The "Protagoras" is believed to be among the earlier of Plato's writings, and was considered by Professor Jowett to be the greatest of the purely Socratic dialogues. It is distinguished for the sustained cogency and completeness of the reasoning, which is upon a thesis which the wily Socrates introduces, and (as usual) carries to a triumphant issue. The dialogue has also a few human touches which greatly relieve the monotony and over-subtlety of some chapters. The general subject is the essential unity of the virtues in knowledge. The maintaining of this position on the part of Plato, it may be noticed, is the chief cause in determining the early place of the dialogue in the author's literary life; in later writings a distinction is made between virtue and knowledge, and the latter is seen to be a useful though not

necessary accompaniment of the former. The commentary to the edition is, in the main, a translation of that of Dr. Hermann Sauppe, a Professor in the University of Göttingen, and a venerable and distinguished scholar.

#### BRIEFER NOTICES.

**A**MONG the volumes which Mr. W. R. Jenkins, (New York), has added to his excellent series in French, designated as "Contes Choisis," is "L'Allelage de la Marquise," by M. Leon de Tinseau, and "Une Dot," by M. Ernest Legouve. Any publisher of French light literature in this country has the very commendable sensibilities of the American public to reckon with; but in avoiding the rocks he may easily run upon the shallows. It is still fortunately possible for an Englishman or an American to write an irreproachable story about entirely virtuous people, with an air of perfect good faith. But in the French very good story there is often the extravagance of a fairy tale, or an air of almost fatuous self-satisfaction. M. de Tinseau's story is one of these "New Arabian Nights" for the *jeune fille*, told with a certain grace of manner which is the heritage of almost all literary Frenchmen. "Une Dot" is a cleverly-told little episode which shows the hand of the practiced dramatist, and draws its pungency from certain not very loveable, but none the less authentic traits of human nature. Profiting by the illustrious example of King Lear, the French father refuses to abdicate, and in consequence retains a grateful daughter, and gains a devoted son-in-law. The moral is the very reverse of that of "Père Goriot," which readers of Balzac will painfully remember.

The latest issues in the "English Men of Action," series, (London : Macmillan & Co.), are biographies of Wellington, by George Hooper, and of William Dampier, by W. Clark Russell. As a compact narrative of Wellington's great career, Mr. Hooper's work is very well done. Consistently with the conception of him as a man of action, nearly the whole of the volume is given to the period of his active army life, 1793-1815, two brief chapters covering all the years after, 1815-1850. A good deal of space is occupied, of course, with the details of his campaigns on the Spanish Peninsula, and while these grow at times a trifle tedious, it is upon them, after all, that his fame should mostly rest. His service in India, brilliant enough, was against a weak and unequal people, and Waterloo's victory will never be regarded by impartial critics as greatly due to superior generalship. But in the Peninsula he beat the most capable and experienced of Napoleon's marshals, and under circumstances of great difficulty hewed out a splendid ultimate success.

The other "Man of Action," Dampier, was an English sailor, free-booter, buccaneer, semi-pirate, who flourished in the later half of the seventeenth century. When William the Third was displacing his father-in-law, and William Penn was planting his colony on the Delaware, Dampier was sailing up and down the seas to capture the Spanish galleons, and occasionally landing to sack and rob a Spanish city. The account of him is lively and entertaining, but much the best feature of the book are the abundant details which Mr. Russell gives, *con amore*, of the conditions of seafaring life two centuries ago. The ships were cumbersome, ill-shaped, and unsheathed: "the vessels commanded by Dampier and his buccaneering companions breasted the surge with no other coating on their bottoms than pitch and tallow. Hence in all long voyages there was frequent occasion to careen, practicable only by tedious deviation in search of a convenient place, and by wearisome detention, that the hull might be listed over and the accumulation of shells and weeds removed." The scurvy was a veritable scourge. Ships carried no "canned" vegetables or fruits in those days. The "chirurgeons" could do nothing for scurvy, and crews died by dozens, and scores, especially in the long voyages around the Cape of Good Hope. The food at best was shockingly bad. "The old navigators overdid their pickling. The brine they soaked their meat in made it harder and less nourishing than mahogany before they were out of the English Channel. Of all the wonders of the early voyages none surprises me so much as the capacity of the people to subsist upon the viands shipped for them."

The two Spanish novels of Don Armando Valdés which Mr. N. H. Dole so well translated, have been issued in a paper edition at fifty cents by Messrs. Crowell & Co., New York. These are "The Marquis of Penalta" and "Maximina." Both are examples of a fine art; the discovery of Valdés to English readers was an event in our literature. The same publishers have also issued in two volumes, twelve of the popular stories which the London "Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge" has issued in penny editions to compete with the "penny dreadfuls" that

seemed to have secured the attention of the populace. These stories are by some of the best known writers of current fiction,—Manville Fenn, Katherine Macquoid, Mrs. Riddell, Grant Allen, B. L. Fargeon, and others,—and in their cheap form they have had an enormous sale, some as high as 170,000, and none under 50,000 copies. Messrs. Crowell & Co. have placed six in each of their volumes, and bound them in paper at fifty cents, and in cloth at twice that.

#### AUTHORS AND PUBLISHERS.

**T**HREE is not yet an end of fiction. Mrs. Jane G. Austin has a new novel of New England life,—early days in the old Colony,—entitled "Standish of Standish." Mr. Richard Malcolm Johnston is engaged upon a novel with the purpose of illustrating phases of village and rural life in Georgia sixty years ago. Mr. George Parsons Lathrop threatens to strain his imaginative powers by a story dealing with a future so distant and so strange that it will be as much of a distinction to be poor as it now is to be prodigiously rich! Mr. George H. Jessop's novel, announced for publication in London, is entitled "Judge Lynch," and is a story of the California vineyards. Mr. William O'Brien, the Irish leader, has written a novel under the title of "When We Were Boys." It is not political, but a description of Irish social life, the scene laid partly in Ireland and partly in London.

Among the announcements by Messrs. G. P. Putnam's Sons, for publication in the early autumn, are "The Industrial Progress of the Nation; Consumption Limited, Production Unlimited," by Edward Atkinson; "A Race with the Sun. A Sixteen Months' Trip Around the World," by Hon. Carter H. Harrison, of Chicago; "The Story of the Hansa Towns," by Helen Zimmern; "Christian Theism: Its Claims and Sanctions," by D. B. Purinton, LL. D., Vice-President of West Virginia University; "A Woman's War Record, 1861-1865," by Mrs. General Charles H. T. Collis; "Lectures on Russian Literature," by Ivan Panin; "Tales from the Korea," collected and translated by Henry N. Allen, Secretary of the Korean Legation.

Mrs. Edna D. Cheney's life of Miss Alcott will be published by Roberts Bros. early in October.

The fifteenth volume of the Southern Historical Society papers has just been issued. It contains the "Paroles of the Army of Northern Virginia Surrendered at Appomattox Court House, April 9, 1865." The secretary of the society says that it possesses valuable original material for an indefinite continuance of the series.

The fortune left by Professor Richard A. Proctor was insufficient to support his family, and his widow has determined to sell his Florida home, together with his library and scientific apparatus.

The famous publishing firm of A. & C. Black, publishers of the *Encyclopædia Britannica*, which has existed for a hundred years in Edinburgh, is about to move to London. The Scotch capital is no longer a literary centre.

One volume of the new edition of the Rig-Veda has been completed and will be laid before the International Congress of Orientalists at Stockholm, by Professor Max Müller. Several new MSS. have been collated, and considerable emendations have been made in the text. Professor Max Müller has secured the assistance of D. Winteritz; and it is hoped that the four volumes, each consisting of about 1,000 pages quarto, will be ready in three years.

Professor Max Müller's new book on "Natural Religion," being the Gifford lectures which he delivered at Glasgow last year, will be issued here immediately, by Longmans, Green & Co.

Boston letter to *The Critic*: "Mr. Daniel Lothrop of D. Lothrop Company, has made the Wayside, Hawthorne's old Concord home, which he owns, very attractive by receptions at which the literary element is uppermost. His wife, who is favorably known as 'Margaret Sidney,' is a charming hostess."

Messrs. Ginn & Co., of Boston, desired to issue an edition of Mr. Thomas Hughes's "Tom Brown at Rugby," and wrote to him to that effect, asking also that a few passages in the book might be modified, and that he furnish them materials for a biographical sketch. Mr. Hughes declined all the proposals rather testily, and since has written the London *Times* complaining that the American publishers went ahead, all the same. In the course of his note he mentions that it is not true that he took any honors at Oxford, classical or mathematical; and also that he was not captain either of the boat crew or the University cricket eleven. (These statements appeared in an article by Wm. Blaikie, in *Harper's Magazine*, December, 1869.) It seems that the passages which Ginn & Co. have excised include the frequent references to drinking bottled beer, the use of the adjective "nasty," etc. The New York *Evening Post* suggests that some of the pugilistic per-

ances might have been dropped, also. But Mr. Hughes wants the book to stand as it is. He says: "The book as it was written has served its purpose for more than a generation in England, and, moreover, several editions have been published without alteration or any protest as to its morality by different firms in America; and the notion of revising it in this sense was very distasteful to me. Even more distasteful to me was the proposal that I should write or in any way sanction the publication of a memoir of myself; as it happens that nothing in modern literature, or rather journalism, offends me more than the pandering to the unhealthy curiosity of the public as to the private lives of our contemporaries, which has become so common."

The issue of the *Publishers' Weekly* for July 20 is the "Educational number" of the year, and a catalogue of school books is given covering thirty-seven pages of small type, besides a subject classified list of six pages. There are also given the names of 185 school-book publishers in the United States. Of these twenty-four are in Philadelphia. A leading topic concerning school-book publication just now is the recent formation of an agreement between leading houses not to cut each others' throats,—or try to cut,—quite so much. Of this, the *Weekly* says: "It is not, in any sense, a Trust, nor will it destroy competition of the right sort. Any business arrangement which undertakes to diminish competition in quality or price is against public interest and ought not to succeed. This combination, as we understand it, has the contrary purpose of serving the public by saving labor and cost. If it should go farther than this, and bring the trades into the stagnation which comes from the destruction of competition, the results would not be good, and the arrangement, we believe, would not last. There is not the slightest thought, however, of any such scheme."

The manuscript of the only contribution that Dickens ever made to "Punch" was lately sold in London for \$80. At the same sale the original manuscript of four stanzas of Hood's "Song of the Shirt" brought only \$40. "Phiz's" original illustrations for "Martin Chuzzlewit" brought very large prices.

Mrs. Stevenson, mother of Robert Louis, has been recently interviewed in London by the *Pall Mall Gazette*. She reports that her son was to have sailed on June 4 for the Gilberts, and after that for the Carolines and Marshalls, three groups of islands about midway between the Sandwich Islands and New Guinea. After that he intended going to Sydney. He wants his mother to join him there in December next, so that he won't be home for another year at least. He is said to be greatly improved in health. "He is doing no serious study, taking of course a few notes here and there of the voyage and incidents for future use, but that is all."

Mr. E. A. Abbey, the artist, still has his home at Broadway, in Worcestershire, (Eng.), and is engaged, it is stated, on the illustrations for an edition of Shakespeare's Comedies.

We join in the regret expressed that our townsman, Colonel John P. Nicholson should not have found himself able to accept the appointment proffered him by the Secretary of War as one of the board in charge of the publication of the "Rebellion Records." Col. Nicholson is one of the most thoroughly informed of students and writers concerning the history of the War, and he would have been a valuable addition to the board.

The May number of the *Journal* of the China Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society contains an interesting series of articles showing land tenure in the various parts of China.

The announcement of the early death of Prof. Alexander Johnston of Princeton, causes many expressions of sorrow. He died on the 20th, at his home, aged 40, having been born April 29th, 1849, at Brooklyn. He held the chair of jurisprudence and political economy; his writing, however, had been chiefly in the department of history in politics. His contributions to encyclopedias and periodicals were very extensive, and his History of the United States, and History of Connecticut, (the latter in the "American Commonwealth" series), are well-known works.

Mr. C. N. Caspar, Milwaukee, who has been preparing a very voluminous and we think very valuable "Directory of the American Book, Newspaper, and Stationery Trade," announces that the work is now complete, and ready for delivery, but that he extends for two weeks the period in which it can be had at the net price, (\$8.00). After that time the price will be \$12.00. It makes an octavo volume of about 1,500 pages, and contains some 40,000 addresses.

#### PERIODICAL LITERATURE.

THE August *Century* presents the description of a rowing trip down the Thames from Oxford to Richmond, by Mr. and Mrs. Pennell, entitled "The Stream of Pleasure." Mrs. Pennell, of course, provides the text, and her husband the pictures, thirty-three in number. Other features are the first installment of a new

story, "The Old Bascom Place," by Joel Chandler Harris, relating to the "Reconstruction" period; and a symposium on wood-engraving.

The August *Scribner* is a sort of Tennysonian number. The frontispiece is a portrait of Lord Tennyson, engraved by Kruell from a recent photograph. Attention is thus called to the Laureate's eightieth birthday, which occurs in August. The same number contains a short essay by Dr. Henry van Dyke on Tennyson's earliest poems, published with his brother; and the "end paper," by Prof. T. R. Lounsbury, of Yale, discusses the poet's attitude towards life in youth and old age, under the title of "The Two Locksley Halls."

Mr. Lowell's poem, "How I Consulted the Oracle of the Goldfishes," is the opening paper in the August *Atlantic*, and doubtless the most noteworthy part of the number. It covers nearly six pages and is the longest poem he has written for years. The theme is the goldfishes as he saw them as a child, as he sees them now, and the analogy between the theories which the goldfishes have (if they have any), as to the curious appearances outside their little sphere, and man's theories about the occurrences which take place outside his universe.

Though it is not put foremost, the article by Dean Lichtenberger on "The Religious Movement in Germany" is undoubtedly the most important article in the August *Harper's*. He reviews the whole theological, religious, and moral field, sifting out the features of interest during the whole of our century. The present religious state of the empire he describes as very discouraging.

Dr. Weir Mitchell, whose industry seems untiring, contributes an article to the August *Century* on "The Poison of Serpents," richly illustrated by J. Carter Beard. With the aid of Dr. Edward T. Reichert, of the University of Pennsylvania, Dr. Mitchell has solved many perplexing problems regarding the poison of serpents. Their experiments were made with the idea that a more complete analysis of the venom of serpents might lead to the discovery of an antidote. Dr. Mitchell states that "while at present we are still groping for remedies, yet we are to-day in position to know with some definiteness what we want and what we do not want."

Mr. Thomas A. Glenn, whose historical and genealogical studies in relation to the "Welsh Tract" we have referred to, has an interesting paper in the *Pennsylvania Magazine's* quarterly issue on "Owen of Merion"—Robert, an early settler, whose descendants form many Philadelphia families.

#### SCIENCE NOTES.

THE death of Miss Maria Mitchell, who was for twenty-three years Professor of Astronomy in Vassar College, has been recently announced. She was born at Nantucket in 1818, the daughter of William Mitchell, an astronomer. In 1847 she made the discovery of a comet for which she received several distinctions. She made a visit to Europe in 1848, and was the guest of Sir John Herschel in London, Leverrier in Paris, and of Humboldt in Berlin. She was the first woman elected a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and received the degree of LL. D. from Hanover College in 1852, and from Columbia College in 1887. She had retired from the professorship at Vassar since January 1888, on indefinite leave of absence.

*Garden and Forest* gives some account of the largest tree now existing in Great Britain. It is the Cowthorpe Oak, in Yorkshire. Its circumference at the ground was at one time 78 feet, but later earth was banked around the base, which covered up several protuberances and reduced the girth. It is believed to be somewhere about 1,500 years old and has not yet seen its last summer. In the last century one of the main branches was blown down and proved to be 90 feet in length, and yielded five tons of timber. The top or leading branch has fallen at some unknown date, and curiously slipped down into the hollow trunk where it has remained. An idea of the size is given when it is known that the tree overshadows over half an acre and that forty persons can stand together within the cavity. It is now a venerable ruin, its limbs supported on all sides by props, and carefully protected in other ways.

Dr. James Croll, the well-known writer on Glacial Epochs and their phenomena, calls attention, in the London *Geological Quarterly*, to the misapprehensions which prevail in regard to the evidences of the existence of former glacial epochs. The scarcity of these records, he says, is not generally understood, nor can the absence of geological record invalidate conclusions drawn from astronomy and other sources. The evidences of glaciation are to be found chiefly on what were ancient land-surfaces, but the latter are hard to find. The entire stratified rocks of the globe, with the exception of the coal-beds and under-clays, consist almost wholly

of a series of old sea-bottoms. On these, of course, no traces of glaciation can be expected. Moreover, the transformation of a land-surface into a sea-bottom would most probably obliterate every trace of glaciation, such as the polishing or striation of stones, the grinding down of rocks, and the formation of boulder clay. One of the chief sources of evidence regarding former glaciations, Dr. Croll says further, are the erratic boulders found most generally in low latitudes. These boulders, imbedded in the stratified rocks, have been transported by icebergs and dropped into the sea. "Assuming that a glacial epoch occurred every time the earth's orbit attained a high degree of eccentricity, it is quite apparent, when we reflect on the imperfection of geological records in the matter, that we have in reality all the evidence of glacial epochs that we could possibly expect."

Appeal is made by the Berlin Observatory for careful observation and record of the luminous night-clouds which have been annually observed in June and July since 1885. They are seen only within that portion of the evening or morning heavens which is illuminated by the twilight and separated from the night-sky by a light semi-circle, the "twilight arch." They are oftenest seen in the evening when the sun is about 10 degrees below the horizon. In form and structure they resemble ordinary cirrus clouds, but glow with a white or silvery lustre that changes to a golden yellow in the vicinity of the horizon. The phenomenon is observed to occur at intervals of from eight to fourteen days, and then usually remains visible for several successive nights.

A general meeting was recently called in London by the authorities, to take into consideration the efficiency of M. Pasteur's methods for the prevention and treatment of hydrophobia. A letter was read from Prof. Huxley, highly recommending the work of M. Pasteur and describing it as a model of exact and refined research. Medicine, surgery, and hygiene, he wrote, are also deeply indebted to M. Pasteur, for his studies in hydrophobia have only been the culmination of others. M. Pasteur himself responded to an invitation to be present by sending a letter in which he gives some interesting statistics as to the results of his work in Paris. Up to the 31st of May, 1889, the number of cases treated was 6,950. Of these the number of deaths was 71. In general this may be stated to be 1 per cent. Of Englishmen treated at the Paris laboratory, 2.3 per cent. have been unsuccessful cases. Of 94 persons bitten and treated during 1888 and 1889, not a single case has succumbed, although many were bitten to a severe extent. Hydrophobia, M. Pasteur observes, is caused without a single exception, by the bite of an animal afflicted with the malady. There must have been a first case of hydrophobia; but to try to solve the problem of its origin is to raise uselessly the question of the origin of life itself.

It is announced by a circular from the Harvard College Observatory, that a bequest of \$50,000 has been received from Miss C. W. Bruce, of New York. This sum is to be applied for the construction of a photographic telescope "having an objective of about 24 inches aperture, with a focal length of about 11 feet; also to secure its use under favorable climatic conditions in such a way as will best advance astronomical science."

Among the bodies of scientific specialists which the Paris Exposition has enabled to come together for conference, is the congress for the preparation of a photographic chart of the heavens. The particular aim of the congress will be to determine upon the methods to be used in celestial photography, and also upon the best means of publishing and preserving these records.

The Zoölogical Congress, which will sit August 5 to 10, will consider chief among other things: Rules for the nomenclature of organisms; an international scientific language; regions the fauna of which call for investigation; methods of observation and preservation of specimens; the uses of embryology in classification; the relations between living fauna and fossils.

Among the subjects to be discussed at the Congress on Hygiene and Demography are: The administrative and medical regulations of different countries in the interests of health and of infantile life; the removal of detritus in cities; the regulation and distribution of temperature in dwelling-houses; the action of the soil on germs of disease; the pollution of water from factory refuse; accidents through food-stuffs, and statistics of the causes of death in cities.

#### CRITICAL AND OTHER EXCERPTS.

##### SOCIAL CONDITIONS AT OTTAWA.

W. Blackburn Harte, in *The Cosmopolitan*.

THE social system of Ottawa is not very well understood in Canada, except by those who actually move in the official circles of the capital. The court is a queer mixture of aristocratic institutions and mob law. It lacks the insuperable class discrimination of the court of St. James in London, and can not claim to

have acquired the usages of a dignified democracy, as seen to such perfection in the official circles of Washington. There is no aristocracy in Canada, except that of brains and muscle, and that does not usually seek to be limned out at court by the fierce light that is supposed to beat around a throne. The old-world aristocracy, with its subtle train of sequences, means social gulfs unbridgeable. It means idle and ever-increasing wealth almost cheek by jowl with the most desperate poverty. In Canada the millions have still a belief in the eternal equities, and "caste" will not be tolerated even in our little provincial court of St. James. There are, however, a few people in Ottawa who have endeavored to introduce the English social system of titular precedence and "caste" distinctions into the social scheme. They are, unfortunately, the victims of their own imaginations, and live in an atmosphere of antiquated idealism. Canada has a monarchical form of government, but the masses are essentially democratic, and regard with feelings of pity and contempt the flummery and court millinery which are all that the progress of the age has left to royalty and divine succession.

The Governor-General's functions are distinctively and exclusively social. It is true that he opens and prorogues Parliament, and gives his assent to the bills passed each session; but he merely acts at the dictation of the Premier, and possesses no more power in the legislation of the country than does the Queen in England. It is not, of course, his fault, but the position of a governor-general is an anomaly to-day. His office, defined with brutal truth, is nothing more than a transplanted fetishism of the old world, with a sinecure attached to it. The principal occupation of his Excellency is to be bored with addresses from learned and patriotic societies, and respond to the toast of "The Queen," at public dinners. He certainly also bears the onus of recommending to her Britannic Majesty suitable persons for minor decorations and titles, which can be obtained by achieving a reputation as a giver of good dinners at the capital, and upon the payment of a nominal sum to the crown, to defray incidental expenses.

#### ARID WASTES FROM TREE DESTRUCTION.

Prof. Felix L. Oswald, in *Popular Science Monthly*.

WHEN the highlands of the Mediterranean peninsulas had been deprived of their woods, the general failing of springs turned rivers into shallow brooks and brook valleys into arid ravines, which at last ceased to supply the irrigation canals by which the starving farmers hoped to relieve their distress. Vast tracts of once fertile lands had to be entirely abandoned. And while the summer droughts became more severe, winter floods became more frequent and destructive. The steep mountain-slopes, denuded of their vegetable mold, sent down torrents of snow-water, turning rivers into rushing seas and inundating their valleys in spite of protecting dikes. Hill-sides which once furnished pastures for thousands of herds were torn up by ever-deepening ravines and reduced to a state of desolation as complete as that of volcanic cinder-field. Harbors once offering safe anchorage for the fleets of an empire became inaccessible from the accumulating deposits of the diluvium which had been swept down from the torrent-rent mountain-slopes, while a detritus of coarse sand and gravel covered the fields of the intermediate valleys.

On the shores of the Adriatic alone 250,000,000 cubic yards of highland soil are thus yearly deposited in the form of pestilential mud-banks. A million square miles of uplands in southern Europe and western Asia have become almost as arid as the mountains of the moon. The Rhône, the Loire, the Ebro, the Guadalquivir, the Euphrates, and the Orontes have completely depopulated many districts exposed to the devastations of their yearly floods.

In America the same cause has begun to produce the same effect. Not in Mexico alone, but within the boundaries of our own republic, the progress of the reckless forest-destruction has made inundations an annual calamity, and has so impoverished the soil of the denuded area that extensive tracts in the terrace-lands of the southern Alleghanies now resemble the *despoblados* of worn-out Spain. The loss resulting from the consequences of that improvidence far exceeds the benefit of labor-saving machinery—so much so, indeed, that the waste of vegetable mold, in our Eastern cotton States alone, more than outweighs the profit derived from the improvement of all agricultural implements used on this continent.

#### CRUELTY IN VERESTCHAGIN'S PICTURES.

B. Macgahan, in *Lippincott's Magazine*.

"A CRUEL talent the man has," was said once of the gifted Russian novelist Dostoyevsky; and many believe that the same terms would just as well apply to the Russian painter whose works have been exhibited in several of our leading cities. And even the friends of the artist must recognize that there is truth in

the comparison: many are the instances where this celebrated painter displays a peculiarly "cruel talent."

Just as Dostoyevsky portrays human sufferings, fanaticism, superstition and psychical malformation in their most varied forms, so in a measure does Verestchagin. Wherever it is possible for him to do so, he brings out in full, though never overstepping the strictest limits of realism, illustrations of human capacity for suffering or inflicting pain.

Even when we leave out of consideration the three great paintings which bear the common appellation of "An Eye for an Eye, and a Tooth for a Tooth," and those other canvases where blood, gory wounds, mutilated bodies predominate, still the impression left by Verestchagin's collection as a whole must inevitably prove a "cruel" one. He always prefers the delineation of men ruthlessly exposed to danger, wearing the thorny crown of martyrdom, led to execution, down-trodden people washing the sacred stones of Solomon's Wall with their tears, religious zealots displaying human heads as lawful trophies, pickets freezing to death at their posts, fanatics performing intolerable tasks through the exigencies of their hard religion. Even in portraits we see the working of the same relentless choice: here we have the hermit averaging in his prayers a thousand prostrations a day before the holy images; then the old wrinkled hag, the wife of the coppersmith, who has done nothing for forty years but make cockades. They one and all arouse in the mind of the spectator an uneasy feeling, all the more painful since they are so astonishingly life-like.

It is idle to reproach an artist for not giving us something outside of the peculiar field of his genius; it would be worse than idle to ask why Verestchagin does not follow in the line of other artists. The "cruelty of the talent" is there, and cannot be gainsaid. Yet we cannot place it on the same level as that of Dostoyevsky's. The stirring writings of the famous novelist are creations of an undoubtedly morbid mind; Verestchagin's intellect is pre-eminently healthy and sane and bright,—unimpaired by any physical weakness. Morbidity is enervating in itself, and surely a man handicapped by it could never display the unexampled heterogeneity and the stanch energy required for the achievement of the tremendous amount of work already accomplished by Verestchagin,—a man scarcely forty-seven years old.

#### PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

- PRACTICAL LATIN COMPOSITION. By William C. Collar, A. M. Pp. ix, 268. \$1.10. Boston: Ginn & Co.
- AMERICAN EPISCOPACY. By S. D. McConnell, D. D. Pp. 37. Paper. \$0.15. New York: Thomas Whittaker.
- MAXIMINA. By Don Armando Palacio Valdés. Paper. \$0.50. New York: T. Y. Crowell & Co.
- THE MARQUIS OF PENALTA. (Marta y María.) By Don Armando Palacio Valdés. Paper. \$0.50. New York: T. Y. Crowell & Co.
- HOW THEY KEPT THE FAITH. A Tale of the Huguenots of Lanquedoc. By Grace Raymond. Pp. 389. \$1.50. New York: A. D. F. Randolph & Co.
- THE STORY OF HELEN DAVENANT. By Violet Fane. Pp. 382. Paper. \$0.50. New York: D. Appleton & Co.

#### DRIFT.

DISCUSSING the recent report from the Bureau of Statistics on the consumption of intoxicating liquors in the United States, the Providence Journal says:

To go back no further than 1840, the per capita consumption of distilled spirits was in that year 2.50 gallons. The total consumption, in a population of 17,000,000 was 43,000,000 gallons, valued at about \$10,000,000. The rate of consumption fell off a little by 1850, rose a little in the next ten years, fell to 2.07 gallons in 1870, and in the fiscal year ending June 30, 1888, had reached the low point of 1.23 gallons. In that year the aggregate consumption is estimated at 75,850,000 gallons, with a presumable value of more than \$80,000,000. Thus in less than half a century the per capita consumption of distilled liquors has been reduced to less than half the original rate, the total amount consumed has not doubled, while the average cost per gallon has increased fourfold. At the same time with the decrease in the use of distilled spirits there has been, as everybody knows, an increase in the consumption of malt liquors. The increase has been gradual and almost uninterrupted, advancing from a per capita rate of 1.36 gallons in 1840 to one of 12.48 gallons in 1888. In view of the character and effects of these liquors, their increased use, being as it is at the expense of the stronger intoxicants, must be considered to argue a more sensible turn in the drinking habits of the people, though the enormity of the increase certainly shows that the habits themselves are not growing less. There has also been an equally steady but by no means so large an increase in the consumption of wines, the per capita rate being .29 of a gallon in 1840 and .59 in 1888. It is also interesting to note that of the wines consumed in the former year 97 per cent. were imported, while in the latter year 85 per cent. were of home production. Our native wines are improving in quality and coming into more general use. No doubt the quantity of liquors of the three kinds now consumed in this country is, in the aggregate, much greater than there is any necessity for; and no doubt very much of the money spent on it

might far better be spent in other ways. Yet something has certainly been gained when excessive indulgence in this respect has ceased to be common to all classes and is confined to the more reckless or vicious.

We trust that our extreme Prohibitionist friends have read the statement of Dr. Albert Day, the superintendent of the Washingtonian Home, concerning the various methods by which people gratify their desire for intoxicating beverages. He said the odium which attaches to the use of alcohol has led many people to devise original methods of securing the effect of inebriety without subjecting themselves to the charge of using alcohol; consequently the use of outlandish and sometimes deadly drugs is terribly on the increase. This bears out the opinion that we have repeatedly asserted, that temperance is not to be secured by prohibiting the use of any particular intoxicant; that, in a large degree, liquor drinking is an effect, and not a cause, the cause being the desire people have to intoxicate themselves, or, at least, to stimulate their physical systems. Hence, if the ordinary intoxicating beverages now in use were entirely destroyed and the knowledge of their manufacture were lost, some other means of obtaining similar physical results would be devised, and the curse of intoxication would still exist. We have insisted upon this view of the case for the reason that we believe that an enormous amount of precious time and human energy has been wasted in attempting to correct an effect when the work should have been applied to an attempted correction of a cause. What we need is to stimulate in the minds of men a belief in the merits of moderation. We need to cultivate a public opinion in all classes of society that will hold in abhorrence the man who so far disgraces his manhood as to become intoxicated. When one takes into account that in the early years of this century it was considered no disgrace by the most estimable individuals to now and then become the worse for drink; that some of the best of Christians were distributors of rum; that at gatherings even of ministers of the Gospel large quantities of hard liquor were consumed, one can see that a great change has taken place—a change which, two generations ago, would have been looked upon as impossible. And, in view of all that has been done, it seems to us not only probable, but certain, that wisely directed efforts can bring about even greater changes in the future. It is in this direction that we believe the work of reform should be turned. The true remedy is to be found not in the suppression of liquor, but in the suppression of the now too prevalent desire to drink.—*Boston Herald*.

We clip this from a local Free Trade journal and present it as a superfluous outcome of the silly season:

"There is Great Britain, whose trade they asserted had been utterly ruined—so ruined, in fact, that the aggregate population of the country was living on her capital, into which they were gradually eating away. Yet what now are the facts? Scarcely a profitable industry in the United States but is at present the subject of the competition of British capital seeking investment therein."

For if it be true—and it is—that British capital is seeking investment in every species of American industry, it proves beyond questioning that the market of the United States is the best in the world, which is what Protectionists assert, and is what Protection has made it. Capital always seeks the best and safest outlet, and that British capital seeks an outlet toward America is proof that the American prospects for trade are the highest and surest. English capital forsakes Free Trade England and seeks protected America! Therefore, says our Free Trade contemporary, Free Trade is a blessing and Protection a curse. The logic is peculiar.—*Chicago Inter-Ocean*.

The Brownsville (Fayette county, Pa.) *Clipper* says that—

"The National Pike from Brownsville to Uniontown is in a wretched condition and should be repaired. From Brownsville to Sebright's it is not tollable. From Uniontown to the top of the mountains the pike is in a very good condition and there is no reason why the rest of it shouldn't be also."

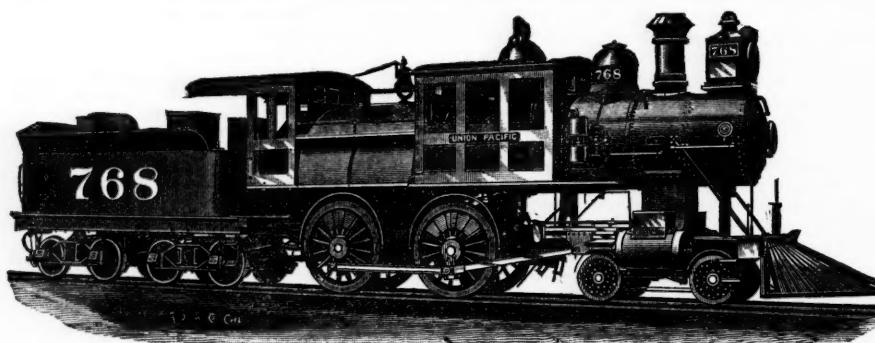
And the Washington (Washington county, Pa.) *Observer* remarks:

"What a shame to allow this magnificent old thoroughfare to go to ruin and decay. It was the first great work of internal improvement undertaken by the National Government and should be preserved through all time. Its construction marked the beginning of a policy which has made this country great. The State of Pennsylvania accepted the part of this famous highway which lies within her borders with a virtual promise to keep it in repair and it should observe the obligation strictly. Pennsylvania is morally if not legally bound to maintain the road. A trifling part of what is annually wasted in other directions would put it in good condition."

Since the year 1871 Germany has lost through emigration no fewer than 1,769,297 of her citizens. Of this immense number no fewer than 1,618,816 have come to the United States, while only about 150,000 have gone to all the other countries. The largest number that came in a single year was in 1881, when 220,902 landed on our shores.

Henrik Ibsen, the Norwegian dramatist, one of whose plays has been the sensation of the summer in London, was born and bred at the small seaside town of Skien. Before obtaining admission to the University of Christiania, after a youth of hard study, he had given evidence of classical knowledge, if not literary skill, by a tragedy called "Catalina." The tragedy was published by the generosity of a friendly apothecary, but only thirty copies were sold. Ibsen now lives quietly at Munich.

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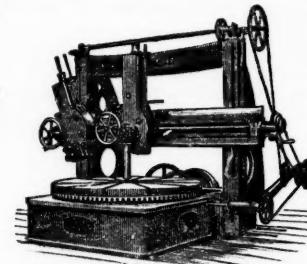
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